

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims pending in the present application. The Examiner now adds new references, Betts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,669,090), Scott (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,486), and Ito (U.S. Patent No. 4,459,589), to support the claim rejections. Specifically, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Betts in view of Scott and further in view of Ito.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that none of the applied references, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least, “the first device outputting a sending request output for providing notification of a state of a communication request from the first device to the second device as a sending request signal using an open collector buffer and also turning back its sending request output inside the first device to check a communicable state inside the first device,” and “if the second device is receivable with respect to the sending request signal sent from the first device, the second device outputting a sending permission output for providing notification of a communicable state from the second device to the first device as a sending permission signal using an open collector buffer and also turning back its sending permission output inside the second device to check a communicable state inside the second device,” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner cites col. 4, lines 26-28 of Betts as allegedly satisfying both of the above-quoted features. However, the cited portion of Betts only discusses sending a request-to-send (RTS) signal at a particular time to a circuit, and that at a later time a circuit 26 sends a clear-to-send (CTS) signal back to data terminal equipment 400 indicating that it is ready to accept data. To the contrary, the above described features of claim 1 indicate that a single output (e.g., a sending request output from the first device) is output for providing notification of a state of a communication request from a first device, for example, to a

second device as a sending request output and that same sending request output is turned back inside the first device to check a communicable state. Nowhere does Betts, or any of the other applied references, disclose or suggest this particular feature of a single type of output being output and that same output being turned back inside the outputting device. At least because this feature is not satisfied by any of the applied references, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that dependent claim 2 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

Further, Applicant submits that none of the applied references discloses or suggests at least, "wherein with respect to time which elapses before outputting another sending request output if outputting sending request outputs simultaneously from two devices, time respectively varying with respect to the two devices is randomly determined by a program of a microcomputer," as recited in claim 2. The Examiner cites col. 2, lines 31-33, of Betts as allegedly satisfying this particular feature. However, the cited portion of Betts only discusses a data randomizer which is used to randomize the data so that an adaptive equalizer can function. Nowhere does Betts or any of the other applied references disclose or suggest what occurs if sending request outputs are output simultaneously from two devices. Since this particular feature is not even addressed by any of the applied references, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
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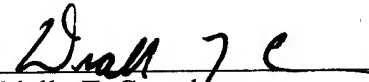
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